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May 15, 2013

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "jef", followed by a stylized flourish.

SUBJECT: **QUARTERLY REPORT – WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

On November 29, 2011, on a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Department of Public Health (DPH) was instructed to provide quarterly reports on its monitoring activities, including findings and actions taken to address water quality issues. Attached is the fifth quarterly report, covering the period from January 1 to March 31, 2013. The report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the county and outlines the actions taken by the DPH Environmental Health Division in response to the findings.

The laboratory analysis of water samples taken during the April to June quarter will be completed in late July 2013. The DWP will provide the sixth quarter on August 31, 2013.

If you should have any questions or would like additional information, please let me know.

JEF:rl  
PH:1111:009

Attachment

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

**Quarterly Report on Water Quality Monitoring for  
Small Water Systems in Los Angeles County**

**January 1 to March 31, 2013**

County of Los Angeles  
Department of Public Health  
Environmental Health Division  
May 2013

## **BACKGROUND**

On November 29, 2011, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) instructed the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health to prepare quarterly reports on water quality monitoring in order for the Board to stay informed of current water quality issues. This report covers the period January 1 to March 31, 2013.

On July 13, 2010, the Board instructed the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures to conduct an expanded study of the small well water facilities in the County of Los Angeles to determine the presence of arsenic, total chromium, hexavalent chromium (chromium+6), and lead as a follow up study to the study published on February 14, 2001.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Drinking Water Program (DWP) serves as the local enforcement agency for California's Drinking Water Standards applicable to "small water systems" in Los Angeles County. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) defines a small water system as one that has less than 200 service connections. Currently, the DWP inspects 180 small water systems within the County.

Operators of each small water system are required to complete bacteriological and chemical analyses of their potable water supplies. The water system operators are required to report monitoring results to the DWP at frequencies established by the CDPH. Failure to take water samples or to report sampling data properly constitutes a violation enforceable by the DWP.

When water quality test results indicate that (a) the system does not meet State Drinking Water Standards or (b) an immediate health risk is present, the water system operator is required to: notify consumers immediately and take corrective action to achieve compliance with State Drinking Water Standards. When the level of a chemical contaminant exceeds ten times the State Drinking Water Standard, the operator must discontinue water service and provide an alternative source of drinking water to consumers.

The DWP works in conjunction with the CDPH to enforce State Law and assists the small water systems in addressing violations for any chemical contaminant exceeding the State's Drinking Water Standards. Once a Notice of Violation is issued and consumers are notified of the exceedance, the small water system is placed under increased surveillance while public notices continue to be posted. The DWP will educate and work with the small water system in violation regarding the installation of treatment systems and utilizing new water sources. The DWP has continued to seek financial assistance from the State for the small water systems.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL/MICROBIOLOGICAL WATER QUALITY

### A. Bacteriological Sampling Requirement

The DWP issues corrective orders to small water systems for failing to perform bacteriological analyses at the frequency required by State Law. The DWP issued Notices of Violation and Order to the following eleven (11) water systems for lapses in bacteriological sampling during the reporting period. The DWP has notified each water system to ensure that water samples are collected immediately. The DWP continues to educate and provide assistance when financially disadvantaged water systems are unable to test their water.

Table 1: Small Water Systems in violation of the State requirement to perform bacteriological analyses.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900009	ADAMS RANCH MUTUAL	ROSEMEAD
1907024	AGUA DULCE FOURSQUARE CHURCH (LIVING SPRINGS)	AGUA DULCE
1900011	CAMPS SCOTT AND SCUDDER	SAUGUS
1900730	GARDENS OF PARADISE	AGUA DULCE
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900537	OAK GROVE TRAILER PARK	AGUA DULCE
1900868	RIVERS END TRAILER PARK	CANYON COUNTRY
1900057	SAINT ANDREWS ABBEY	VALYERMO
1900569	TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION-SAN GABRIEL	MONROVIA
1900914	USFS-SKYLINE PARK/MOUNT WILSON A-4	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900599	VALHALLA WATER ASSOCIATION	TUJUNGA

### B. Exceedances of the Bacteriological Standard

The DWP also issues corrective orders to small water systems for exceeding the Bacteriological Standard. During the reporting period, the DWP issued two (2) Notices of Violation and Order for bacteriological exceedances for the small water systems below.

Table 2: Small Water Systems in violation of the State's Drinking Water Standards for bacteriological levels.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1901000	GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL-GRAY BUTTE	LANCASTER
1900700	USFS-BIG TUJUNGA STATION	TUJUNGA

Both of the listed water systems tested positive for coliform bacteria, an indicator used to signal the potential presence of *E. coli*, a potential pathogen. Further laboratory analyses confirmed that *E. coli* was absent from their water test results. Both coliform bacteria and *E. coli* have been absent in subsequent testing of these small water systems.

### C. Microbiological Treatment Requirement

Small water systems are designated as “Surface Water Systems” when they use water from streams, lakes, and open reservoirs. Similarly, small water systems are designated as “Groundwater Systems Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water” (GWUDI) when their wells are in close proximity to such features. These small water systems are required to implement multibarrier treatment. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at six (6) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding their designation as Surface Water Systems or GWUDI Systems but have not completed full implementation of multibarrier treatment.

Table 3: Small Water Systems designated as Surface Water and GWUDI that have not met the microbiological treatment requirements.

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900904	ACTON CONSERVATION CAMP # 11	ACTON
1900007	CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CAMP # 14	SAUGUS
1900901	FIRE SUPPRESSION CAMP 19	AZUSA
1900764	HENNINGER FLATS – LA COUNTY FIRE DEPT	ALTADENA
1900591	STURTEVANT CAMP, UNITED METHODIST	ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
1900569	TRASK SCOUT RESERVATION- SAN GABRIEL	MONROVIA

The DWP is continuing to work with these water systems to develop and implement multibarrier treatment systems.

## **CHEMICAL WATER QUALITY**

### A. Exceedances of the Arsenic Standard

Small water systems that have had chronic exceedances of the Arsenic Standard are required to continue notification of their customers. Although State law does not require public notification for all of the following water systems, the DWP has been proactive in its response requiring public notification for all water systems within its jurisdiction. During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at thirteen (13) small water systems that have previously been notified regarding Arsenic levels historically exceeding the Standard (10 parts per billion).

**Table 4: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic.**

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1900228	BIG DALTON DAM	GLENDORA
1900305	CHALLENGER MEMORIAL YOUTH CAMP	LANCASTER
1900038	LANCASTER PARK MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900100	METTLER VALLEY MUTUAL	LANCASTER
1900785	MITCHELL'S AVENUE E MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS
1907007	NORTH HOLLYWOOD SPORTSMEN'S CLUB	SAUGUS
1907031	RANCHO YBARRA CHRISTIAN CAMP	TUJUNGA
1907018	SUMMERHILL EQUESTRIAN CENTER	SAUGUS
1900987	U.S. FOREST SERVICE OAK FLATS S-13	CASTAIC
1900520	VILLAGE MOBILE HOME PARK	LANCASTER
1900961	WINTERHAVEN MOBILE ESTATES	LANCASTER

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supply. The DWP, in conjunction with the CDPH, is currently reviewing the proposal. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

Big Dalton Dam (Water System 1900228), New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036), and Rancho Ybarra Christian Camp (Water System 1907031) have proposed systems for the treatment of Arsenic in their potable water supplies. The DWP is currently reviewing these proposals in conjunction with California Licensed Water Filtration Contractors.

#### **B. Exceedances of the Nitrate Standard**

During the reporting period, the DWP maintained increased surveillance at two (2) small water systems that have previously been identified as historically having Nitrate levels that exceed the Standard (45 parts per million). These small water systems are also required to continue notification to their customers.

**Table 5: Small Water Systems under increased surveillance for chronic exceedance of the State's Drinking Water Standard for Nitrate.**

System ID	Small Water System	City
1900894	ACTON FOUR SQUARE CHURCH	ACTON
1907036	NEW APOSTOLIC CHURCH BOUQUET CANYON	SAUGUS

Acton Foursquare Church (Water System 1900894) has proposed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP is currently reviewing the

proposal in conjunction with the CDPH. An alternative water supply is being provided while the system is under review.

New Apostolic Church Bouquet Canyon (Water System 1907036) has installed a system for the treatment of Nitrate in their potable water supply. The DWP will maintain increased surveillance of their water quality until the treatment system has demonstrated efficacy throughout the pilot monitoring period required of newly-installed treatment systems.